

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 764

By Tidwell

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study the adequacy of funding for public education in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the Basic Education Program (BEP) was instituted by the General Assembly in 1992 to provide a funding formula for public education in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the BEP formula has been upheld by the Tennessee Supreme Court as providing an equitable system for funding public education in this state; and

WHEREAS, questions continue as to the adequacy of state education funding through the BEP formula as school districts strive to meet state and federal mandates; and

WHEREAS, adequate funding to meet the educational needs of Tennessee's school children in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is of vital importance and the necessity to conduct an exhaustive review of the BEP formula and subsequently construct a responsible fiscal model that provides an appropriate education for every student must be undertaken by this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that there is hereby created a special joint committee to study and make recommendations for changes in the funding formula for the Basic Education Program (BEP). The committee's recommendations shall address adequacy in funding for Tennessee's public school systems, while also preserving equity in funding as required by the Constitution of Tennessee.

. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the committee shall consist of three (3) members of the House of Representatives and three (3) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the 106th General Assembly no later than February 1, 2009, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.